

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FATHER
CHARLES E. IRVIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Father Charles E. Irvin of Lansing, Michigan for his dedication to and retirement from the position of Editor in Chief of FAITH Magazine.

FAITH was created by Father Irvin in 1999. In the two years since, the publication has thrived under his leadership. Today, he and a staff of three distribute 830,000 copies of FAITH each year to families all across Lansing.

Father Irvin has served as Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Manchester, Michigan, St. Francis Parish in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Holy Spirit Parish in Hamburg, Michigan. In addition, Father Irvin has worked as a corporate attorney, and once served as president of the Catholic Lawyer's Guild. After a successful launch year, Father Irvin resigned his post as editor in Chief of FAITH so he may continue his full-time work in parish ministry.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Father Charles E. Irvin, a man who has dedicated his entire life to pursuing a greater good.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ADOLPH A. SOLIS,
CITY CLERK OF AZUSA, CA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Adolph A. Solis, who recently retired from his position as City Clerk of Azusa, California. He had served as City Clerk since July 1974, and was a positive role model in the Azusa community, located in California's 31st Congressional District.

Mr. Solis was born on January 17, 1931, in the San Gabriel Valley. He graduated from Citrus Union High School in 1948. He later joined the United States Navy and served as a deck hand on the USS Missouri during his first tour to Japan and Korea. After returning from his first tour in 1951, he went on to service school training in Norfolk, VA. Later, he rejoined the USS Missouri and went on a second tour to Cuba, Haiti, and several other islands in the Caribbean. Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Solis was Honorably Discharged in June 1954 at the Brooklyn Naval Station. Mr. Solis returned to Azusa in 1954.

Upon returning to Azusa, Mr. Solis married Ofelia Rico in 1955. He had proposed to her in 1951 on a two-week leave from the USS Missouri during his Far East tour. Mr. Solis

says, "I only saw her personally for five days between my proposal and our wedding." It was true love, which produced two wonderful children, William and Aida.

After his active duty, Solis worked as a file clerk for the Navy's Aerojet facility between 1954 and 1956. He then worked as an accountant until 1974.

Mr. Solis recognized the importance of education. He began his studies at Mount San Antonio College in the fall of 1955, then transferred to Citrus College in the spring of 1956, and then I went on to Pasadena City College. Mr. Solis transferred to California State University Los Angeles and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English in 1961.

Mr. Solis taught English as a Second Language from 1966 to 1969 for the Azusa Unified School District Adult Education Evening School. In 1969 he won a seat on the School Board, and in 1973 he was reelected.

I recognize Mr. Solis for his tireless efforts to improve the City of Azusa and for his commitment to public service. On behalf of California's 31st Congressional District, I wish him a wonderful retirement and thank him for his decades-long service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE CITY, FLORIDA'S USO SHOW PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 57 AND AMERICAN LEGION POST 57, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to a wonderful group of men and women in Lake City, Florida who started their own local USO troupe and are delighting audiences near and far. The 14 members that make up the two performing groups—called the Eloquence and the Sweethearts—are all members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 or the American Legion Post 57, Department of Florida. As part of their USO show, they wear spirited costumes from the 1950s and '60s and lip synch oldies but goodies once performed by entertainers with the United Service Organization (the USO) for our troops overseas.

In celebration of the USO's 60th birthday, the Lake City group performed a special Valentine's Day dance featuring memorable tunes like Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. They raised \$300 that night, which the group generously donated to the USO. Since then, the group has continued to entertain audiences throughout the community and state at Lake City Community College, the VA Hospital, the Shriners and a nursing home in Orlando. They've even performed during Elder Day at the state Capitol in Tallahassee.

I'm so proud of them, and their tremendous spirit, enthusiasm and patriotism. Mr. Speaker,

please join me in recognizing the following individuals who are part of this unique mission to rekindle the memory of the USO and to keep its work alive: Ginger Fitzgerald; Pat Barribeau; Annette Burnham; Larry Burnham; Gaynell Burnham; Betty Jo Henderson; Wanda Procopio; Sandy Reeves; Paula Schuck; Pat Priest; Barbara Reppert; Carol Underhill; Alberto Marriott; Mark Thomas; and Marian Wyman.

I would also like to submit for the RECORD a history of the group called "A Small Flower" written by troupe member, Patricia Barribeau, who is also the Unit National Security Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57.

A SMALL FLOWER

Like a seed that blossoms into a beautiful flower, a small project within our Auxiliary blossomed beyond belief. The spirit of the holidays and the challenge to fill the dance hall for our Holly Ball was the beginning. Someone said, "Let's sing some songs when the band takes a break." Eyes rolled and heads wagged. I thought to myself, 'How ridiculous; I've got the voice of a frog.' But six members took the challenge, and little did they know what was in store.

The first undertaking was to decide exactly what we were going to do. This was the point when we discovered that no one could really sing. So we decided instead to choose a few select songs from the past that brought back memories and lip synch. Among the original songs were Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Soldier Boy and God Bless The USA. We wore red, white and blue dresses, shiny fabric with long gloves and high heels. Finally, opening night arrived and we were a hit.

We started planning for the Annual Sweetheart Dance soon after the first of the year. Enthusiasm was high so we decided to entertain at the dance. By now, there was a name for the group: The Eloquence. It was time to make the program a little longer so we added two new acts: The Sweethearts, performing Sincerely and Dedicated To The One I Love and Kate Smith with God Bless America.

Four women make up The Sweethearts. They wear dark pants, white shirts, sequined red vests, cummerbunds and red bow ties. As for Kate Smith, she wears her signature black dress with a sweetheart neck and a long lovely silk handkerchief. She is truly a vision of her early days. Also, a member of the Sons of the American Legion joined the ranks in his army fatigues. He'd join in Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Hang On Sloopy.

The birth of the USO show came about in somewhat of a similar manner. Out of somewhere a voice said, "We look like a USO troupe!" and another said, "Let's build that up." We'll take up a collection for the USO. And before you know it, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam-era songs were being practiced and remembered. We gathered information about the USO from the Internet, the library and the encyclopedia, wrote a history of the USO that would serve as the opening to the show.

The night of the Sweetheart Dance arrived, and we had the jitters. So the District Chaplain had us take hands, bow our heads and ask God to help us through this without making fools of ourselves. We walked onto the stage and to our surprise there were

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

more than 350 people in the hall. Thankfully, the show went off without a hitch, and after all expenses, we made \$300, which we sent to the USO in the name of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Lake City, Florida.

Soon, we received numerous invitations to perform. We were asked to entertain for the residents of the Veterans Home in Lake City. We performed at a luncheon for senior citizens from five surrounding counties at the request of the local chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges. By now, the telephone calls were streaming in. Could we perform for the Shriners in May to raise more money for the USO? How about coming to the VA Hospital in April? Can you make it to some of the local festivals? Can you entertain at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Home? That would be another place where we can take up a collection for the USO. It seemed as if everyone knew about the American Legion Auxiliary USO presentation. We recognized veterans in the community at every program. The most outstanding request of all came when we were asked to appear in Tallahassee in the Rotunda at the Capitol on April 19.

Our local USO dance troupe of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Florida, is doing more than preserving an old pastime. We are rekindling a love of our country and recognizing our veterans for a job well done. We are also collecting donations for the USO so that they will be able to continue to make life a little better for our young men and women in the military who serve our country so dutifully here and around the world.

This project has truly turned into a very big red poppy.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I am joined by TOM LANTOS and 27 of our colleagues in introducing a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). This bipartisan, conservation incentive program helps to protect the world's most valuable tropical forests through "debt for nature" mechanisms.

In the 105th Congress I introduced the TFCA with our former colleagues Lee Hamilton and John Kasich. It was overwhelmingly approved by the House by a vote of 356-61, passed the Senate under unanimous consent and became Public Law 105-214. The TFCA was developed with the support and input of respected environmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund and Conservation International. Their support and ongoing commitment to this program are appreciated and commendable.

The United States has a significant national interest in protecting tropical forests in developing countries. Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits. They harbor 50-90% of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. They act as "carbon sinks," absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby reducing greenhouse gases. They regulate rainfall on which agriculture and coastal resources depend, and they are of great importance to regional and global climate. Furthermore, tropical forests are breeding grounds for new medicines. Twenty five

percent of prescription drugs come from tropical forests. The United States National Cancer Institute has identified over 3000 plants that are active against cancer. Seventy percent of them can be found in rain forests.

Regrettably, tropical forests are rapidly disappearing. The latest figures indicate that 30 million acres (an area larger than the State of Pennsylvania) were lost each year. The heavy debt burden of many countries is a contributing factor because often they must resort to exploitation of their natural resources (particularly the extraction of timber, oil, and precious metals) to generate revenue to service their external debt. At the same time, poor governments tend to have few resources available to set aside and protect tropical forests.

The TFCA addresses these economic pressures by authorizing the President to allow eligible countries to engage in debt swaps, buybacks or reduction/restructuring in exchange for protecting threatened tropical forests on a sustained basis.

The TFCA is based on the previous Bush Administration's Enterprise for the America's Initiative (EAI) that allows the President to restructure debt in exchange for conservation efforts in Latin America. TFCA expands on the EAI and allows protection of threatened tropical forests worldwide.

The debt for nature mechanisms in the TFCA is an effective means to leverage scarce funds available for international conservation. The host country places an amount in its tropical forest fund that typically exceeds the cost to the Treasury of the debt reduction agreement. Furthermore, because these tropical forest funds have integrity and are broadly supported within the host country, conservation organizations are interested in placing their own money in these tropical forest funds producing additional leverage of federal conservation dollars.

Last year, the United States concluded the first TFCA debt reduction agreement with Bangladesh. This outstanding agreement will help protect four million acres of mangrove forests in that country and the world's only genetically secure population of Bengal Tigers. At present, there are eleven nations on three continents interested in negotiating TFCA debt reduction agreements. Furthermore, President Bush has expressed his commitment to the program.

The International Relations Committee plans to take up the bill very soon, so I would like to invite all of our colleagues to cosponsor this important conservation measure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCNENLY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew McNenly of Lansing, Michigan on being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Computational Science Graduate fellowship is a rigorous, highly competitive program that provides numerous benefits to the fellows in return for a complete casework in a scientific or engineering discipline, computer science, and applied mathematics.

McNenly graduated from Howell High School in 1994 and is currently attending the University of Michigan pursuing his Ph.D. in Aerospace engineering.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Matthew McNenly for being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

HONORING ROSEMARIE FISHER

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 12th, 2001 family, friends, community leaders and well-wishers will gather to congratulate Ms. Rosemarie Fisher on her retirement as Executive Director of Rosalie Manor Community and Family Services in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I have known Rosemarie for many years, and have always admired her vision for and hard work at Rosalie Manor, and the Milwaukee community at large. Rosalie Manor is a non-profit social service agency founded in Milwaukee in 1908 by two Misericordia Sisters to minister to pregnant, single women. While the location and programs have changed in the past 93 years, Rosalie Manor's mission and role as a leader in the field of pregnancy and parenting services in the greater Milwaukee area continues on, thanks to the commitment of Rosemarie, her staff and board members.

Rosemarie began her work at Rosalie Manor in 1975 as a part-time social worker. She remained at the Manor until 1978, when she went to New York to work at another Misericordia Sisters agency called Rosalie Hall. In 1982, Rosemarie returned to Milwaukee and Rosalie Manor as its Executive Director. During the last 19 years, through Rosemarie's insight, planning and financial expertise, Rosalie Manor has become a successful social service agency, expanding programming and the number of families served in the greater Milwaukee area. Since 1984, Rosalie Manor grew from serving 2 residents to more than 3,000 families annually, with a budget of \$450,000 to more than \$3 million.

From 1983 to 1990, Rosemarie's vision of what Rosalie Manor can and should be meant adding four new programs to meet the changing needs of the Milwaukee community, including Mother Care, Families United to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Supporting Today's Parents, and the Family Intervention Program. Rosemarie believes that her greatest accomplishments while executive director are continuing Rosalie Manor's mission to serve single, pregnant women and maintaining its strong financial position. Rosemarie can indeed take pride in these and so many more goals achieved while serving her community.

I rise to commend Rosemarie Fisher for her commitment to Milwaukee's families and for her years of service to our community at large. Her tireless efforts on our behalf will be missed but always remembered with deep appreciation.